

As my colleagues already pointed out, there is currently one facility in Kabul that conducts all of these examinations. It is already dangerous and increasingly dangerous to get to that facility, to work through the backlog, and to afford those examinations.

Under our bill, recipients would be required to get a medical examination within 30 days of arriving in the United States.

Let me be clear. Nothing in this bill would impact the security screening and vetting process for these applicants. The National Security Council estimates that this change could decrease the SIV process by approximately 1 month per applicant.

My colleagues, in combat and in a war zone, every hour matters. Minutes seem like hours, days like weeks. A month will save many, many lives.

We wouldn't be considering this bill on the floor today if it weren't for a broad coalition of supporters.

To my friend and colleague, Representative WENSTRUP, I thank him for his partnership. I know how important this is to him, too, for personal reasons.

Mr. Speaker, to the members of the Honoring Our Promises Working Group, I thank them for their steadfast attention to this issue and for their support of this bill, Republicans and Democrats alike.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Leader HOYER, Chairman NADLER, Chairwoman LOFGREN, and her subcommittee staff, Ami Shah and Betsy Lawrence, for working very late the last couple of weeks to make sure we got this deal done.

The American handshake needs to mean something, not just in and of itself. But we are strong as a country not because we have aircraft carrier battle groups, fighters, and tanks. We are strong because we have friends. And to have friends, we need to be a friend. We must stand by our partners.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the HOPE for Afghan SIVs Act.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of H.R. 3385, the HOPE for Afghan SIVs Act, which the gentleman from Colorado and I introduced to help knock down one small barrier to getting our Afghan friends and allies out of harm's way, which they greatly deserve.

I truly appreciate the words expressed by my colleague because they reflect so many of my same feelings.

The bill is not a permanent solution to fixing our special immigrant visa program, but it is a critical temporary waiver to help cut down on the backlog of pending Afghan SIV applications.

During a time of great emergency, it is a life and death situation, without a doubt.

There is currently only one facility in Afghanistan that performs the required medical exams, located in

Kabul. Because exams are only valid for a few months, many applicants must make repeated trips to Kabul at their own cost and risk.

H.R. 3385 would allow the Secretary of State and the DHS Secretary to jointly issue a 1-year waiver for the in-country medical exam requirement, up to 3 years. But, importantly, the bill requires, to the greatest extent practical, that the applicant undergoes the medical exam no later than 30 days after being admitted to the United States.

It explicitly states that nothing in the bill prohibits our agencies from adopting appropriate measures to prevent the spread of disease here. All it does is allow the applicant to undergo the medical exam here instead of in Kabul.

During my tour in Iraq, I worked alongside Iraqi interpreters who risked their lives to serve with us and help us complete our mission. Many eventually used a similar program to escape harm's way and to build a life in the United States. The two that I worked with and supported are now full U.S. citizens here in America. One is a cardiologist, and the other has a family practice.

As we withdraw from Afghanistan, the Afghans who served by our sides, the translators, the contractors, and the guides, without whom we could not do our jobs, are left in the crosshairs of the Taliban. They worked for the United States, despite knowing the risk to their own lives and their families. They believed in us, and they believed in our cause.

It will be a black eye on the United States if we don't do everything in our power to protect these allies. If we don't honor our promises, if we allow our friends to be targeted and killed by groups like the Taliban, ISIS, and al-Qaida because they worked with and for the United States of America, we will send a message to those we will need to rely on in the future that we are unable to live up to our side of the bargain.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his tireless work in bringing this issue to the forefront as we withdraw from Afghanistan, for all the staff that put in so much time to get this done, and for our bipartisan Honoring Our Promises Working Group for keeping the pressure on the administration to make sure that we don't leave our allies behind.

Mr. Speaker, please support this bill. It is a good thing for America to do.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CROW for his service, his powerful words, and his commitment. I thank Representative WENSTRUP, too, for his powerful words.

Our Afghan allies serve alongside U.S. troops, diplomats, and govern-

ment employees. We must do right by the people who have worked to protect our country and our servicemen and -women.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support them through the HOPE for Afghan SIVs Act. I support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3385, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2225) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 345, nays 67, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 186]

YEAS—345

Adams	Bacon	Bera
Aguilar	Baird	Bergman
Allred	Balderson	Beyer
Amodel	Barr	Bice (OK)
Armstrong	Barragán	Bilirakis
Auchincloss	Bass	Bishop (GA)
Axne	Beatty	Blumenauer
Babin	Bentz	Blunt Rochester